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A radio talk by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, ~~delivered~~ in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 48 associate NBC radio stations, Tuesday, April 5, 1932.

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If seasonal conditions where you live are anything like they are here at Washington you will have to act quickly if you want to do any planting this spring. With us the fruit trees and ornamental plants are bursting into blossom and leaf at an alarming rate which means that we will have only a few more days for planting any of the deciduous shrubs or trees. This is also the time in many sections to scatter a little fertilizer over lawns and sow grass seed then roll the lawn.

It is really surprising what you can do by way of patching up a lawn where there is a partial stand of grass. In applying a complete commercial fertilizer you must be very careful to spread it evenly and not put on too much at a time. If you are using a rather low grade fertilizer, you can apply as much as 3 pounds to each 100 square feet of lawn but if it is a rather high grade fertilizer, I would not recommend that you apply more than 1 1/2 or 2 pounds to 100 square feet, that is, ten feet in each direction. Let me suggest that you mix the fertilizer with about ten times its volume of finely sifted soil then you will have a larger bulk to handle and you can put it on more evenly and there will be less chance of burning the grass.

It is a good idea to put on the fertilizer then let a good shower fall upon it or give the lawn a watering and let it settle and the fertilizer dissolve for a day or two before sowing grass seed. For patching up an old lawn where there is a fair stand of grass, I would recommend that you sow a pound of lawn grass seed to 500 square feet of surface, and for a new lawn use twice that amount.

I would like to repeat what I have said so often about the importance of having plenty, but not too many, shade trees around your homes. In many of the older settled sections of the country there are already plenty of trees around the farm and village homes, too many in some cases and too few shrubs. The shrubs may be used around the foundations and in borders to supplement the trees, also you can use shrubs to good advantage for immediate effect where there are no trees. In any case don't neglect to plant trees if there are not already plenty of trees about your home. If you can't afford to go to the nursery and buy your trees, go out into the woods and pastures and dig up native elms, oaks, maples, hackberry, hickories, pecans or most anything that you can get and move the trees and plant them about your home. Remember that I did not say around your home for you want to leave a vista at the front and at any point where you want to preserve the view.

Black walnut is a good tree to plant in sections where it grows naturally and the black walnut is an excellent tree for roadside and pasture planting. Did you ever notice how little a black walnut tree will affect the crops that are growing near it? It always seemed to me that

the finest pasture grass was found right under a big black walnut tree. A nice spreading pecan tree makes a fine shade for the side yard or back yard in southern sections where pecans grow naturally. You folks who live out in the Plains area certainly owe a debt of gratitude to the fellow who discovered and brought the Chinese or Siberian elm into this country, that is if it grows for you the way it is growing here around Washington. The Chinese elm certainly is a beautiful tree.

There are two fruit diseases that I want to especially mention today because now is the time to begin to fight them. One is the Apple Blotch and the other is the Cherry Leaf-Spot. Apple blotch is one of the most destructive diseases in our Southern Middle Western orchards. It attacks the fruit, the foliage, the twigs and sometimes the fruiting spurs. Perhaps you have had apples on trees in your orchards that were all covered with smutty, blotchy spots and perhaps the skin on one side of every apple was full of small cracks? Well that is probably a bad attack of blotch and here is the way to prevent its developing on your apples the coming season. Fortunately apple blotch can be controlled by three or four thorough sprayings. Fortunately too, some of our most important varieties of apples, are, to some degree at least, resistant to the attacks of blotch. Here are some of the more resistant varieties: Delicious, Grimes Golden, Jonathan, Stayman Winesap, Old-Fashioned Winesap, and York Imperial.

The first application of spray to control blotch consisting of dilute lime-sulphur solution, that is 1 1/2 gallons of the commercial lime-sulphur solution in 50 gallons of water, should be put on directly after the blossom cluster buds have opened, that is before the petals begin to show color. The second application consisting of the same dilute lime-sulphur solution should be made just after the petals have fallen. You can add one pound of powdered lead arsenate to this spray to control codding moth and your spray will serve a double purpose. The next three sprayings should consist of Bordeaux mixture and be applied at intervals of two or three weeks. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1-4-7-9 gives the whole story of the way the apple blotch works and the control measures. It is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1479.

The other disease, Cherry Leaf-Spot, is about as widely distributed as Apple Blotch, and often causes the leaves to fall from the cherry trees before the fruit ripens. When you recall that it takes good healthy leaves and plenty of them to make good tasty fruit you will realize how serious this disease must be to the cherry industry. The spores that cause the cherry leaf spot live over winter on the fallen leaves then in the spring these spores are blown upon the young leaves where they start a new growth. Cherry leaf-spot attacks all kinds of cherries but is worse on the sour cherries such as English Morello, Montmorency, and Early Richmond.

Dr. John W. Roberts, Pathologist, and Pathologist by the way means a plant doctor, tells me that about three sprayings with lime sulphur solution at the rate of 1 1/2 gallons to 50 gallons of water, the same as for apple blotch, will control the cherry leaf-spot. The first spraying should be done just as soon as the petals have fallen, the second about three weeks later, and the third directly after the fruit is picked. Powdered Arsenate of lead at the rate of 1 pound to each 50 gallons of spray can be added to control insects. Dr. Roberts recommends that for sweet cherries the spray be made a little weaker, that is about 1 gallon of the concentrated lime sulphur to 50 gallons of water. That's the story of Cherry leaf-spot, very briefly told, but if you want the full information write for Farmers' Bulletin No. 1-0-5-3, on Cherry leaf-spot, by Dr. Roberts. There are only 8 pages in this little bulletin, it is No. 1053. So long until next Tuesday.